

MOROCCO PERFINS

Last year I had a very specialised enquiry from a member of the Sheffield Philatelic Society. He is a member of the G.B. Overprints Society and he gave me the following article from their society's magazine which is called 'The Overprinter'. I reproduce the article in full and would be only too pleased to be able to pass on any other information. The comments by 'Ed' at the end are not mine, but the 'Ed' of The Overprinter.

"John Welch wants to know about Morocco Perfins

I have recently been going through my Perfin collection and remembered that I had two examples of overprinted G.B. stamps which are also Perfins. I know from articles published in 'Stamp Collecting' by Ian McQueen that examples of Levant have been found treated in this way and I know that B.O.F.I.C's were perforated for Telegraphic purposes. I have seen however no references in The Overprinter or elsewhere, to the stamps of other territories being treated in this way. My two examples are both Morocco Agencies.

- a) S.G.58b perforated with B E M reading from left to right across the upper part of the stamp.
- b) S.G.160 perforated with B E M vertically reading from top to bottom.

In each case the Perfins are identical block capitals and the group measure 15.5mm long by 6.5mm high. I do not know what the letters stand for; would British Embassy Morocco be too obvious? Perhaps other readers will have other examples and ideas.

John Welch.

John makes a good guess, but in fact the letters B E M stand for Banque d'Etat du Maroc or State Bank of Morocco in Tangier. I have seen a couple of covers bearing these perfins (either British overprints or French Morocco stamps) with the name of the bank printed on them - such items seem to be most unusual.

It is sometimes said that this is the only Morocco perfin, but that is not so. I have two others on single stamps - one S.M on a French Morocco stamp postmarked CASABLANCA 1925, the other on a Gibraltar KEV11 Morocco Agencies overprint. I think the latter stands for Credit National, another bank. I echo John's request for other examples and ideasEd."

A note of interest - the enquiry came from the long time pen-friend of Burkhart Beer. Burkhart lives in Germany and a few years ago when he was visiting Sheffield, I took my Q.V. Perfin covers to show him. 2d. blues are the only perfins he collects!! Now he makes sure that the bulletin has up to date lists of perfinned 2d. blues - as on the next page.

Ed. M.R.S.